



City of Chicopee, Massachusetts

ARPA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES 10/25/2022

Attendance:

J. Vieau, M. Pise, G. Balakier, Liz Batista, K. Donahue, S. Kulig, M. Laflamme, K. Lingenberg, S. Riley, L. Sanders, J. Tillotson

Excused: L. Sanders, J. Tillotson

I. Mayors Update

The Mayor reference a recent newspaper article regarding Chicopee's prioritization of infrastructure project for ARPA funds. He reiterated his commitment to utilizing the funds for one-time expenditures for the benefit of the maximum number of Chicopee residents and stated his appreciation for the Advisory Committee's efforts.

II. Minutes Approval

Motion by M. Laflamme, 2nd by S. Riley to accept the minutes as presented in the meeting packet. All in favor.

III. ARPA Administration

M. Laflamme reported that the next ARPA quarterly report was due to the Treasury Dept by the end of the month. While there have not been significant expenditures, projects continued to move forward. The Fire Department Turn out gear project had nearly expended- they were only awaiting the final shipment. We had received the first invoice related to the Boys and Girls Club project. M. Laflamme reminded the members that the Project Summary with project level detail was included within their Board packet.

K. Lingenberg shared that Library Redevelopment project had not received funding under Mass Development. The Mayor shared his disappointment but stated his continued commitment to the redevelopment of the Library and its potential to positively impact downtown revitalization. K. Lingenberg proposed that the ARPA funds committed to the project be authorized to further the architectural and engineering. She detailed that doing so would enhance the competitiveness of the project for other funding but would also trigger the need for ARPA eligible outcomes to be achieved. This outcome requirement might result in a subsequent request to increase ARPA funding. Group discussion about importance of the project, the potential to phase the project if cost were too high. M. Laflamme questioned if a vote would be appropriate. Consensus that a vote would be prudent given the potential need to commit additional ARPA funds. Motion by E. Batista to authorize ARPA funds to be expended to further the Library redevelopment, 2nd by S. Kulig. All in favor.

IV. Projects/Proposals

Impacted Non-Profit program- K. Lingenberg stated that another application had been received and reviewed by the Program Sub-committee. The applicant, the Polish Home, had demonstrated losses and had also taken a private Line of Credit to fund essential repairs. The Sub-committee's recommendation was to award \$25,000 in light of the Polish Home's commitment to continue to offer below market venue space to non-profits for fundraisers and events. The funds would be restricted to repayment of the existing line of credit. Motion to award funds under stated terms and conditions by K. Donahue, 2nd by E. Batista. All in favor.

Representatives of Polish Center of Discovery and Learning withdrew their verbal request for reconsideration.

Mayor stated that his position is we continue to consider applications as they are received, knowing that we had allocated funding to assist at least 10 non-profits.

Prior Proposal Update

DPW Matching Funds- E. Batista reported that there had been no word on the federal grants for which matching funds would be required. She requested that the proposal remain on the consideration list. M. Laflamme inquired the amount of ARPA funds that would be needed. E. Batista responded that the matching requirement is estimated to \$700,000. Consensus that the project remain on the list for immediate consideration if federal funds were committed.

Bellamy House- K. Lingenberg reported that CDBG funds are funding an assessment of the structure and environmental issues. The CDBG contract had been sent to the Bellamy House Board President but had not yet been returned.

Economic Development- K. Lingenberg reported the Greylock Management has completed a host of interviews with business owners and is still seeking more responses to a business need survey. CDBG is funding this work with the hopes that ARPA or CDBG can fund a program is an unduplicated need is identified.

V. New Business

Delta Park Project- K. Lingenberg reminded the Committee that we had sent the \$250,000 planning proposal back to the Planning Department with instructions to identify potential ARPA eligible outcomes. The Planning Department had submitted an amended request of up to \$1,125,000 that had been distributed within the packets. Discussion on the complexity of ownership, environmental, and of access. K. Lingenberg reminded the group that all ARPA funding needed to result in eligible outcomes. Consensus that proposal be tabled for future consideration.

DPW Projects – Based upon discussion at the September meeting regarding the city's infrastructure projects, L. Batista shared that she had a number of projects that may be forthcoming. She detailed a few of the potential projects but also shared an immediate need

to increase the funding to the South Fairview project. The requested increase was \$300,000. M. Laflamme questioned if this increase was estimated or based on actual bids. L. Batista responded cost estimates. Discussion of need to support the project but administratively to wait until firm number was known before allocating additional funds.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 6, 2022 at 9AM